REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are requested. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 10 and 15 are amended.

In numbered paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0046286 (Caldwell et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Caldwell et al. publication fails to teach or suggest Applicants' present invention as set forth in independent claims 1, 10 and 15. For example, the document relied upon by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest automated polling in a network wherein a client synchronizes its maintenance of data with a database on a server based on a received time stamp indicating the creation time of the database on the server. As such, claim 1 is allowable. Independent claims 10 and 15 are allowable for similar reasons.

Referring to Applicants' Figure 1 flowchart, an exemplary method for providing automated event polling is illustrated. The automated event polling includes the logging of data into a database on a server at step 10. Event data associated with the server can be logged for retrieval by a client application as described on specification page 3 in paragraph [0010]. A client 310 generates an http request via a client interface 312, and receives responsive data transmitted from the server 300 in an XML format (e.g., paragraph [0014]). Fig. 4 shows a flowchart of a client synchronization process. A client can synchronize when, for example, a received database creation time stamp does not equal a stored database creation time stamp. The creation time is not the message creation time, but the creation time of the

database, e.g., when the server software has been either initialized or reinitialized (e.g., paragraph [0017]).

The foregoing features are broadly encompassed by the independent claims 1, 10 and 15, and are neither taught nor suggested by the Caldwell et al. publication. The Caldwell et al. publication does not teach or suggest automated polling in a network wherein a client synchronizes its maintenance of data with a database on a server based on a received time stamp indicating the creation time of the database on the server.

The Caldwell et al. publication discloses at paragraph [0006] that a server can access each other's data without the need to receive all of the data from the other server. The idea is to distribute the data over the various servers rather than "pushing" the data around the servers (paragraph [0006]). This clearly teaches away from a client synchronizing its maintenance of data with a database. Further, the Caldwell et al. publication discloses synchronizing attributes from site to site (paragraph [0020]), but this does not teach or suggest a client synchronizing its maintenance of data with a database on a server based on a received time stamp indicating the creation time of the database on the server. At least for the foregoing reasons, the Caldwell et al. publication does not teach or suggest automated polling in a network wherein a client synchronizes its maintenance of data with a database on a server based on a received time stamp indicating the creation time of the database on the server, as recited in claim 1. Independent claims 10 and 15 also similarly claim the recited features.

Thus, independent claims 1, 10 and 15 are allowable over the Caldwell et al. publication. The remaining claims depend from the aforementioned independent

claims and recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the documents relied upon by the Examiner. As such, these claims are also considered allowable.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: __December 12, 2005__   By: _____

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